

## Message Text

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42

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CCO-00 INRE-00

INR-07 CIAE-00 OCL-00 OC-05 SS-15 PM-03 NSC-05 DODE-00

SAJ-01 SAB-01 NEA-09 IO-10 OPR-01 A-01 SY-04 /081 W

----- 000964

O 211450Z FEB 75

FM AMCONSUL ASMARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3206

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

USCINCEUR IMMEDIATE

CINCUSNAVEUR IMMEDIATE

COMIDEASTFOR IMMEDIATE

NAVCOMMU ASMARA IMMEDIATE

NAVCOMMSTA NEA MAKRI IMMEDIATE

DIRNSA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

CONFIDENTIAL ASMARA 0249

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, ET

SUBJECT: ASSESSMENT OF TODAY'S MILITARY ACTION OUTSIDE ASMARA

REF ASMARA 247

1. THERE FOLLOWS A JOINT ASSESSMENT OF TODAY'S ACTION PREPARED  
BY SENIOR MAAG ADVISOR (EUCOM REP), CINCUSNAVEUR REP, AND CONGEN.

2. FRIDAY, 21 FEB 75, 2D DIVISION CONDUCTED A CLEARING OPERATION  
WEST OF ASMARA IN THE VICINITY OF THE VILLAGE OF AZZECIA. THE  
OPERATION WAS INITIATED AS A RESULT OF INTELLIGENCE REPORTS  
INDICATING INSURGENT ELEMENTS OF UNKNOWN SIZE HAVE MOVED INTO  
THE AREA DURING THE NIGHT OF 20-21 FEB 75. THE DIVISION OBJECTIVE  
APPARENTLY WAS TO PRE-EMPT ANY INSURGENT ATTACK FROM THAT AREA  
AND TO DENY THEM THE USE OF THE VILLAGE. ONE BATTERY OF 105MM  
HOWITZERS SUPPORTED THE OPERATION FROM POSITIONS AT THE EDGE  
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OF ASMARA NEAR TRACT TX. IN ADDITION, FOUR F86 SORTIES WERE FLOWN

IN SUPPORT OF THE GROUND UNITS. FOLLOWING IS A DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION AS OBSERVED BY USNAVCOMMU PERSONNEL AT TRACT B.

3. FROM THE ROOF OF TRACT "B" WAREHOUSE A CLEAR VIEW OF THE VILLAGE OF AZZECÀ WAS OBTAINED THROUGH 10X50, 20X50, 8X30, BINOCULARS FROM 1100L UNTIL 1300L. THE TROOPS WERE TRANSPORTED IN TWO GROUPS OF TWO AND A HALF TON TRUCKS; ONE GROUP ON SOUTH SIDE OF VILLAGE; THE OTHER ON EAST SIDE AND AROUND TO NORTH AND OUT OF SIGHT. THE SOUTH GROUP CONSISTED OF FIFTEEN TRUCKS AND TWO JEEPS. THIS GROUP DISMOUNTED AT THE SW CORNER AND SPREAD INTO THE VILLAGE FIRING THEIR WEAPONS AT FEQUENT INTERVALS. THE SOUTHERN GROUP RETURNED TO THEIR TRUCKS AT ABOUT 1215L AND PROCEEDED ALONG THE SOUTH END OF THE VILLAGE TO THE EAST END WHERE THE LAST TWO TRUCKS STOPPED AND THEIR TROOPS PROCEEDED INTO THE VILLAGE FOR APPROX 20 MINUTES. THE REMAINDER CONVOYED TO A POINT ABOUT 1.5 MILES EAST OF THE VILLAGE WHERE LATER JOINED BY THOSE LAST TWO TROOPS. DURING ALL ABOVE THE HOWITZERS WERE FIRING SALVOS INTO NE SECTION OF VILLAGE AND TO NORTH BEYOND VILLAGE.

4. AT 1215 TWO F-86 WITH CAMOUFLAGE PAINT JOBS TOOK OFF FROM ASMARA AIRPORT AND MADE ONE EACH PASS BOMBING THE NORTHERN SIDE OF VILLAGE THEN MADE FIVE OR SIX STRAFING RUNS IN ALL PARTS OF VILLAGE. MOST IMPACTS IN DETILADE ON NORTH SIDE OF VILLAGE BUT SMOKE AND DUST VISIBLE ABOVE RIDGELINE IN VILLAGE. AT 1315 THE TWO F-86 REPEATED ALL THE ABOVE IN SAME LOCALES AND TARGET AREAS.

5. BY 211700 FEB THE OPERATION APPARENTLY HAD TERMINATED AS THE SUPPORTING ARTILLERY HAD WITHDRAWN AND THE SOUND OF GUNFIRE HAD DIED OUT. THE SUCCESS OF THE OPERATION IS UNKNOWN. THERE DID NOT SEEM TO BE ANY OPPOSITION TO THE DIVISION SWEEP AND NO PEOPLE WERE OBSERVED IN THE VILLAGE.

6. HOWEVER, CONTINUING AUTOMATIC WEAPONS AND ARTILLERY AND/OR MORTOR FIRE OUTSIDE ASMARA CAN BE HEARD AT CONGEN COMPOUND. DIFFICULT TO DETERMINE EXACT LOCATION THIS FIRE.  
SHERRY

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